(b) if so, whether it was in 1994 Meet of the Global Tiger Forum that China, Indonesia and Thailand pleaded for the concept to be considered by Tiger range countries;

(c) the main reasons for not implementing the decision for the last three years; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal for tiger farming by South Asian Nations under consideration of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(b) No, Sir. No proposal for farming of tiger was pleaded by Indonesia and Thailand in the 1994 Meet of the Global Tiger Forum. Further, no delegate from China had participated in it.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Production of Fodder**

3305. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present level of production of fodder and requirement thereof in the country;

(b) the steps taken to improve the quality (nutritive value) and productivity of fodder during the last three years and results achieved hereby particularly in Western States, State-wise;

(c) the details of Research and Development extension programme formulated to meet the growing fodder requirement of animals in milk producing States; and

(d) the details of action plan for fodder development and financial assistance likely to be made available under the Central schemes during 1997-98, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) As per estimates made in 1993 by Policy Advisory Group of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the availability of dry and green fodder was 398.68 and 573.50 million tonnes respectively against the requirement of 583.62 and 744.73 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The Central Government disbursed Rs. 12.06 crores in the last three years to different States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "assistance to States for feed and fodder development" which has components for improving the nutritive value of fodder. The States of Maharashtra and Gujarat were given Rs. 21.52 lakhs and Rs. 62.98 lakhs respectively during the period.

(c) The All India coordinated project on forage crops has developed several new high yielding fodder varieties which are not being grown by farmers. Some of the new varieties are Anand-2, Anand-3 and LL-5 (Lucern), BL 1, BL 10 (Berseem), AS 16 (Sorghum), J-1006 (Maize), TL-1 (teosinte) and PGG-19 (Guinea grass).

(d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of assistance to States an outlay of Rs. 5 crores has been made for 1997-98.

*[Translation]*

**Sugar in International Market**

3306. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Sugar has been out of competition in the international market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the production of sugar in Uttar Pradesh and the percentage of sugar out of it sent to international markets;

(d) whether the price of sugar has been increased due to imposing of cess unit;

(e) if so, the estimated percentage of raw material and taxes/cess in the production cost of sugar; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to bring down the prices of sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) The export of sugar is being undertaken by various private exporters as per their own best commercial judgement. It is not possible to quantify the increase or decrease in sugar exports, as a host a factors, including international sugar prices and demand determine export decision.

(c) During 1996-97 season, the production of sugar in U.P. was about 40.50 lakh tonnes (Provisional) upto 7.7.97.

A total quantity of about 1.35 lakh tonnes (Provisional) has been released for export out of 1996-97 season's production from the sugar mills in the State of U.P. upto 31.7.97.